

I'm an interpreter working in Video Relay Services; for Deaf consumers, it is imperative that the FCC NOT reduce funding, access, quality requirements, etc. for VRS! Having worked in traditional Telecommunications Relay Services for years, the difference that VRS makes in the lives of consumers is staggering. VRS is as close to true "functional equivalency" as the telecom industry has yet achieved, and to down-grade it in any way would be to take a step backwards. For interpreters, VRS has revolutionized the way we do our work, and the bar for the entire industry has been raised. VRS is the future of interpreting, and to down-grade or remove VRS would be seriously injurious to the interpreting community, as well. Bottom line: VRS is a major leap forward in accessibility - please, keep it coming, keep the rates up so that companies will be able to afford to provide the services, and keep the standards high - for all of us!

Thank you,
Dee Layne Kobel
Interpreter, RID CI/CT